(c) Air Taxies are already operating passenger services to airports in Gujarat like Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Baroda and Ahmedabad on charter|non-Scheduled basis. They are free to carry cargo. They can carry mail also subject to agreement with their clients.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNED BY ITDC HOTELS

*3081. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned during the year by different Hotels under ITDC;

(b) whether it is a fact that these Hotels are not getting direct business from the erstwhile USSR and whether those foreigners are being offered heavy cuts on tariff rate through different travel agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) ITDC hotels had earned direct foreign exchange of the order of Rs. 692.22 lakhs upto October, 1993 of the current financial year 1993-94.

(b) and (c) Since tourist traffic from CIS countries generally comes through Indian travel agents|tour operators, ITDC has to offer special rates and discounts to the travel agents depending upon various factors like volume of business, prevailing season etc.

PROPOSALS FOR BETTER CARGO SERVICE BY IA

3082. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines propose to take some measures to provide better Cargo Service within and outside India in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof separately for within and outside the country;

(c) whether some objectives are behind these measures;

(d) if so, the details thereof with estimated earning of foreign exchange with such measures; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following are the main steps being taken by Indian Airlines to provide better cargo services :—

Domestic :

—Introduction of bulk and commodity cargo rates.

— Working on the prospects of computerising cargo movement.

— Intimating consignees through RAPID system immediately on arrival for quick delivery.

—To provide better covered areas to save cargo from the vagaries of weather.

— Introduction of an Express Cargo Service guaranteeing delivery of cargo within 24 hours of selected routes.

Outside India :

In addition to the steps taken for domestic cargo as stated above, Indian Airlines selects agents who are equipped with better handling facilities outside India.

(c) and (d) The objective behind these measures is to increase revenue from cargo : since the schemes have been recently introduced, it is difficult to quantify the additional revenue directly attributable to these steps.

(e) Does not arise.